TL 6567

FRENTE REVOLUCIONARIA DE TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE

(REVOLUTIONARY FRONT FOR AN INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR)

FRETILIN

Rua Caetano Alberto, 19 - 1º
1000 Lisboa
Portugal

Luísa Cortesão Pereira
CCPD
R. Pinheiro Chagas, 77 - 2.º Et.
1000 Lx

Lisbon, May 23th. 1988

Dear Friends, comrades

First of all, I would like to send you my cordial greetings. This letter aims at giving you some complementary remarks to the PROTOCOLL OF THE MEETING, of the solidarity groups, in Viena, written by the Austrian group and d.d. of 12/May/88.

As you already know, I went to the Vienna meeting, last February, where I introduced the FRETILIN Information PROJECT, particularly, in its last phase, i.e., the work to be done after the information material arrives, in Lisbon, from East Timor (Press Releases, distribution to the NGO's, preparation of dossiers, etc.,). My intention and purpose was, indeed, to introduce properly the background and aims of our Information Project in order to give to the meeting a clear understanding that the Project needs needs the support of the entire Solidarity Movement.

It was clear for me after the meeting that the support groups realized the importance of supporting our Information Project, namely:

PHASE A - TO SUPPORT OUR UNDERGROUND NETWORK, IN EAST TIMOR, to enable it:

- . to collect the information material(war situation, human rights abuses, documented material like photos and captured documents, etc.,)
- . to organize and to compile it;
- . to channel it through different places;
- . to bring it to the outside world.

PHASE B - TO SUPPORT THE G.I.F. - FRETILIN INFORMATION OFFICE, in Lisbon.

I clearly understand that the support groups have no money to support FRETILIN's Information PROJECT in its two phases. For this reason, I made an appeal to the meeting and to the groups to find in their countries Funding Agencies that can be ready to support FRETILIN.

It poses, of course, some questions that were raised in the meeting:"There are Funding Agencies that don't want to support armed movements like FRETILIN, in East Timor, and NPA, in the Philippines, since, they think that the money might be used to buy weapons". Like this argument, there are many others. But,I said:

"We are asking for Funds to support our Information Project, and not to buy weapons;"

"If the Funding Agencies don't want to support "grey areas of action" like the Phase A, they still can support Phase B- - FRETILIN INFORMATION OFFICE, in Lisbon."

"FRETILIN is a Liberation Movement fighting for the recognition of the right of the East Timorese People to self-determination. This right is recognised by the United Nations, and FRETILIN is not an internal opposition Party (in Indonesia) fighting against the Suharto regime. We are fighting the occupation of our motherland by a foreign country. How can the International Funding Agencies deny its support to FRETILIN?"

I informed the meeting that, if there was any group interested to make lobby in the respective country to find money for GIF, I could give a copy of our PROJECT PROPOSAL. As a matter of fact no one have asked it from me, except for TAPOL, XminY and Kommittee Indonesia.

In general, the meeting was quite important in the discussion about the solidarity movement and the relationship between the support groups and FRETILIN. On this point there were support groups that support politically FRETILIN and those who avoid to support FRETILIN especially those groups more concerned with the Human Rights and religious matters.

Last but not least: concerning my statement on the Christian Meeting, in Lisbon, January/88 (pag. 2 - The point of view of FRETILIN, by Abílio Araújo): as far as I know the meeting organised hearings for Timorese refugees and also invited the Nationalist Convergence (UDT and FRETILIN) to talk about the current situation in East Timor. However, the majority of the christian groups don't want to be considered as a part of the solidarity movement.

That's all for today

Best regards

FRETILIN EXTERNAL DELEGATION

ABÍLIO ARAÚJO

HEAD